

**Abstract 106**

**TITLE:** HIV/AIDS Risk Behaviors Among Native American High School Students

**AUTHORS:** Charles Geboe MEd and Sherry A. Everett, PhD, MPH

**BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:** The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was administered to students in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded high schools nationwide to determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors among Native American students attending these schools.

**METHODS:** BIA conducted a census of schools and students: A total of 5,606 (of a possible 7,702) students in 54 (of a possible 57) high schools completed the YRBS in the spring 1997 for an overall response rate of 68%. Students completed an anonymous, self-reported, 84-item paper and pencil questionnaire that queried students about health risk behaviors including sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. The data were weighted to adjust for nonresponse and are generalizable to all BIA high school students.

**RESULTS:** Many students engage in behaviors that increase their risk of HIV infection. For example, 63.3% of students have had sexual intercourse and 14% did so by age 13 years. Four in 10 students (40.4%) reported sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey and among these students, slightly more than half (51.6%) used a condom during last sexual intercourse. More than one in three students (37.9%) drank alcohol or used drugs before their last sexual intercourse. During the 3 months preceding the survey, 53.5% used alcohol, 52.3% used marijuana, and 10% used cocaine. More than 1 in 20 students (6.0%) had ever injected illegal drugs.

**CONCLUSION:** Many Native American students are at risk for HIV infection. Data from the BIA YRBS supports the need for effective programs and activities designed to reduce risky sexual behaviors and drug use among high school students in BIA funded high schools.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Sherry A. Everett

**Address:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS K33  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

**Telephone:** (770) 488-3206

**Fax:** (770) 488-3112

**E-mail:** sce2@cdc.gov